

Message Text

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ACTION CA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MMO-01 PPT-01 ABF-01 PER-01
A-01 HA-05 NSC-05 SCS-06 VO-05 OC-06 CCO-00 /046 W
-----050238 162132Z /64
P 161809Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7960
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 02316

FOR CA, M/MO AND EUR/SOV

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CVIS, UR, OGEN
SUBJECT: CONSULAR PACKAGE FOR FY-1980

REFS: (A) MOSCOW A-43, (B) STATE 025833, (C) 77 MOSCOW
6322, (D) MOSCOW A-44

1. FY-1980 CONSULAR PACKAGE SUBMISSION WITH THE EXCEPTION
OF SCHEDULE VI, I POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT AS REPAIR A ON
FEBRUARY 13. NARRATIVE AS REQUESTED SCHEDULE VI, I
REFTEL B IS TRANSMITTED BELOW BECAUSE OF ITS CLASSIFICATION

2. IN ADDITION TO BROAD RANGE OF POLITICAL PROBLEMS AND
PROJECTS CONNECTED WITH CONSULAR WORK IN MOSCOW AS CITED
PARAS 2 AND 3 IN LAST YEAR'S CONSULAR PACKAGE
(REFTEL C), THE CONSULAR SECTION HAS BEEN FORMALLY
DESIGNATED (ALONG WITH THE REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICE) AS
THE FIRST CONTACT FOR ALL QUOTE WALK-INS END QUOTE. EACH
CASE REQUIRES SENSITIVE HANDLING AND CONSUMES A GREAT DEAL
OF TIME. INITIALLY CONSOFF MUST ASSESS SECURITY AND
REPORTING ASPECTS OF EACH CASE. THEREAFTER, HE MUST TAKE
INTO ACCOUNT THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS. THIS PAST YEAR, FOR
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EXAMPLE, CONSULAR SECTION CARED FOR A 79 YEAR-OLD
LITHUANIAN FOR THREE WEEKS, UNTIL HIS RELATIVES
WERE LOCATED IN THE UNITED STATES, SO THAT THEY COULD SEND
HIM A PROPERLY CERTIFIEXSINVITATION TO REJOIN THEM.

3. THE AUGUST 1977 FIRE AT THE EMBASSY SERIOUSLY AFFECTED
CONSULAR WORK FOR SIX MONTHS. THOUGH THE SECTION DID

NOT SUFFER ANY FIRE DAMAGE, IT GAVE UP HALF ITS SPACE TO THE COMMUNICATIONS AND RECORDS (C&R) SECTION (WHOSE FACILITY HAD BEEN GUTTED), FORCING DOUBLE OR TRIPLE OCCUPANCY OF OFFICES AND REMOVAL OF MOST OF THE SECTION'S CLASSIFIED STORAGE CONTAINERS. THE RELOCATION OF C&R RESULTED IN MAKING THE CONSULAR SECTION A PASSAGEWAY TO THE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY WITH A STEADY FLOW OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL THROUGH THE SECTION. THIS DISRUPTED VISA INTERVIEWS AND UNAVOIDABLY DISTRACTED PERSONNEL IN THE SECTION ON A CONTINUING BASIS, TO SAY NOTHING OF THE RAISED LEVEL OF NOISINESS IN THE SECTION PRODUCED BY C&R EQUIPMENT. SINCE THE CHAR FORCE COULD NOT BE ADMITTED INTO THE AREA BECAUSE OF THE SENSITIVE NATURE OF THE C&R FACILITY AND BECAUSE MUCH OF THE CONSULAR SECTION'S CLASSIFIED MATERIAL COULD NOT BE STORED IN SECURE FILES, THE SECTION COULD NOT RECEIVE REGULAR CLEANUP. THE GENERAL ATMOSPHERE WAS THEREFORE CROWDED, NOISY AND DIRTY DURING THE PERIOD AUGUST 1977-FEBRUARY 1978, WHEN THE CONSULAR SECTION SHARED ITS SPACE WITH C&R.

4. GAPS IN FILLING AUTHORIZED POSITIONS CREATED OTHER PROBLEMS. WITH A LOSS OF MORE THAN TWENTY MAN-WEEKS BECAUSE OF SUCH GAPS, THE CONSULAR SECTION OPERATED BELOW AUTHORIZED STRENGTH THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. THREE, AT TIMES TWO, OFFICERS ENDEAVORED TO COMPLETE THE WORK OF FOUR AUTHORIZED OFFICERS. THE SECTION HAD AT ITS DISPOSAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEVEN, RATHER THAN THE EIGHT AUTHORIZED FSLs. SINCE COMPENSATED AND UNCOMPENSATED OVERTIME BY AMERICANS COULD MAKE UP ONLY A PORTION OF THE LOST TIME, CONSULAR OPERATIONS SUFFERED BOTH QUANTITATIVELY AND QUALITATIVELY. THE OFFICERS CONCENTRATED ON STATUTORY FUNCTIONS AND MATTERS OF IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE, SUCH AS HEAVY IMMIGRANT/TCP/NONIMMIGRANT VISA WORK LOAD AND EMERGENCY W/W CASES. CONSOFFS COULD NOT DEVOTE AS MUCH TIME AND ATTENTION TO PROBLEMS OF INDIVIDUALS AS THEY WOULD HAVE LIKED. THEY ALSO HAD TO DROP VIRTUALLY ALL VOLUNTARY REPORTING ON POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIOLOGICAL ISSUES COMING TO THEIR ATTENTION FROM VISA INTERVIEWS WHICH HAD PROVED AN INVALUABLE SOURCE OF INFORMATION FOR THE EMBASSY IN THE PAST. IN THE FSL AREA, UNCLASSIFIED FILING COULD NOT BE COMPLETED FOR MONTHS AT A TIME. IT STILL LAGS AND RESULTS IN MUCH WASTED TIME AND EFFORT HUNTING FOR FILES.

5. TRAINING OF OFFICERS AND STAFF ALSO POSED A PROBLEM. IN THE PAST CALENDAR YEAR, EIGHT OFFICERS AND FOUR SECRETARIES -- QUADRUPLE THE NORMAL TURNOVER -- PASSED

THROUGH THE SECTION. EACH HAS TO BE CAREFULLY TRAINED INTO THE PARTICULARITIES OF CONSULAR WORK IN MOSCOW. IN ADDITION, THE RETIREMENT OF THE CHIEF LOCAL IN MAY 1977 NECESSITATED THE TRAINING OF A SUCCESSOR -- WHO HERSELF WAS ILL FOR A PROLONGED PERIOD OF TIME. IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE TWO FSLs WILL HAVE MATERNITY LEAVE DURING THE CURRENT YEAR, AND IT IS NOT SURE WHEN OR IF THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES WILL REPLACE THEM.

6. THE EMBASSY ANTICIPATES THAT THE 1980 OLYMPIAD WILL NECESSITATE THE ASSIGNMENT OF TWO TDY FSOS FOR GENERAL CONSULAR DUTIES. IT IS EXPECTED THAT PROTECTION WORK FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS WILL SKYROCKET DURING THE PERIOD BECAUSE OF THE SOVIET PENCHANT FOR CAUSING PROBLEMS TO FOREIGN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOURISTS THROUGH ITS BUREAUCRATIC INDIFFERENCE AND INEFFICIENCY. TDY OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO THE SECTION DURING

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ACTION CA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MMO-01 PPT-01 ABF-01 PER-01
A-01 HA-05 NSC-05 SCS-06 VO-05 OC-06 CCO-00 /046 W
-----051694 162132Z /64

P 161809Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7966

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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THIS PERIOD SHOULD HAVE A S-3/R-3 IN RUSSIAN, BUT AT LEAST A S-2/R-2, PREFERABLY WITH PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE OF SOME KIND IN THE USSR (E.G., STUDENT, EXHIBIT GUIDE).

7. CONSULAR PACKAGE FOR FY-1980 SUBMITTED BY KIEV ADVANCE PARTY (KAP) HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED TO DEPARTMENT UNDER COVER OF REF D. THOUGH NOT YET FORMALLY PERFORMING

CONSULAR FUNCTIONS, KAP HAS GIVEN INVALUABLE ASSISTANCE
TO THE EMBASSY IN PROTECTION AND FAMILY REUNIFICATION
MATTERS IN THE UKRAINE. THE KAP STATISTICS TEND TO GIVE
WELL DOCUMENTED PRELIMINARY PICTURE OF THE EXPECTED FOCUS
OF ITS ACTIVITY WHEN IT BECOMES A CONSULATE GENERAL.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW02316
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780072-0496
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780247/aaaabnvc.tel
Line Count: 176
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 527c47d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION CA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MOSCOW A-43, 78 STATE 25833, 77 MOSCOW 977
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 sep 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3573858
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONSULAR PACKAGE FOR FY-1980
TAGS: CVIS, OGEN, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/527c47d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014